



# Visiting Ringers' Safety Policy

## All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Church document H&S\_Doc\_001 for all General Health & Safety requirements

### Specific Policy

This Health & Safety (H&S) sub-policy controls the safety of visiting bell ringers at church.

Visiting bell ringers need to be safe at church. Visiting bellringers may know other bell towers but not our bell tower.

This policy exists to ensure visiting ringers have a safe visit. The following safety rules are for visiting bell ringers concerning issues beyond their learned skills as bellringers.

### Reference Documents

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

### Procedure

#### The Following General Safety Rules Apply.

- 1) No children under the age of 8 are allowed up the tower stairs. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult responsible for them.
- 2) All large items of baggage will be left at ground level so that each visitor can have both 'hands-free' to get to the ringing platform.
- 3) The stairs are spiral and uneven. Care must be taken, and no running or hurrying is allowed.
- 4) Sensible shoes must be worn for the bell ringing activity.
- 5) Your organiser needs to be assured that all bellringers are physically fit to ring the bells and that bell ringing at All Saints' Church will not to the detriment of their wellbeing.
- 6) A rope handrail is available for guidance up the tower stairs along with adequate lighting.
- 7) There is no public access to the tower roof (spire) or any level higher than the bell ringing platform.
- 8) There is no horseplay allowed on the bell ringing platform.
- 9) Please do not lean over the railing.
- 10) It is UK law that there is no smoking in Church.

#### The Following Specific Bell Ringing Safety Rules Apply

- 1) Your tower captain (or organiser) must be confident that your ringers are competent to ring safely.
- 2) You will be allowed up the tower when your representative arrives (or with our representative).
- 3) You will be informed if the bells are 'up' or 'down'.
- 4) You will be informed if any of the bells are demonstrating any peculiarity.
- 5) You may be asked for written parental consent for junior ringers to ring.
- 6) There is no access to the bell chamber when the bells are 'up'
- 7) Turning the clapper from the 'wrong' position when the bells are up is not allowed. The bell will need to be down and rung up again. The bell chamber is normally locked.
- 8) Ringing on any box on the 3 bells closest to the rail is not allowed if the ringers hips are higher than the rail.
- 9) All contemporary Church of England safeguarding measure must be followed.

Information will be forwarded to the organiser.

### Forms

None

### Diagrams

None

### Appendices

None

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## All Saints' Church – Walsoken

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